

18 February 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR: Linda J. Stevens
Acting Chief
Clearance Division, OPS

FROM: J. Barry Harrelson
Senior Reviewer

SUBJECT: Requested "Mission Statement" re
HRP/ARRB

1. This is in response to your request asking that HRP provide you with a "mission statement" concerning HRP and its relationship to the Assassination Records Review Board. It flows from the fact that the ARRB staff has declared the OPS files of Nagell, Novel and Ruby to "assassination records" and our subsequent request that the files or copies thereof be forwarded to HRP. Also, certain portions of the files of Walter Sheridan and Harold Weisberg have or will be declared assassination records.

2. The Historical Review Project (formerly the Historical Review Group, CSI, DCI) has among its several projects the responsibility to deal with the presidentially appointed Assassination Records Review Board and its legal mandate to find and transfer to the National Archives all U.S. Government records relating to the Assassination of President Kennedy. The authority of the ARRB is fairly broad and includes: the authority to designate files/documents "assassination records," to determine if a particular record or certain information within it must be released to the Archives or postponed until 2007, and, the power to issue subpoenas in the pursuit of its assigned activities.

3. In the instant case, the Board staff has designated the Nagell, Novel and Ruby security files assassination records. Copies of them must now be processed by HRP according to its current guidelines for release/protection of information and the files released to the Archives. With respect to the files on Sheridan and Weisberg, further review by the Board is necessary to designate which, if any, portions of them are assassination records.

4. I hope that the above fulfills your requirement in this matter and I look forward to receipt of the files.

J. Barry Harrelson